

Booth House or Tudor Hall  
Between Bel Air and Churchville  
Bel Air vicinity  
Harford County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-510

HABS  
MD  
13-BELA.V,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPH

ADDENDUM TO:  
BOOTH HOUSE  
(Tudor Hill)  
(Junius Brutus Booth House)  
(Tudor Hall)  
Tudor Lane, RFD No. 1  
Bel Air vicinity  
Harford County  
Maryland

HABS MD-510  
*HABS MD, 13-BELA. V, 2-*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### TUDOR HALL

HABS No. MD-510

- Location:** 17 Tudor Lane, Bel Air vic., Harford County, Maryland.  
The coordinates for Tudor Hall are 76.180979 W and 39.332080 N, and they were obtained through Google Earth in November 2011 with, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.
- Significance:** Tudor Hall is significant both as one of the earliest and best examples of Gothic Revival in the state of Maryland and for its association with the Booth family. Shakespearean actor Junius Brutus Booth, father of other famous actors including Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth, built the house in 1847. The design was copied from William H. Ranlett's pattern book, *The Architect*.
- Description:** Tudor Hall is a pattern-book example of Gothic Revival architecture from the 1840s. It is a one-and-a-half story painted brick dwelling with a high pitched cross gable roof. Gothic Revival details include the shaped brick chimney, decorative porches, balconies and bays, and leaded windows with a diamond muntin pattern. The picturesque effect represented the height of fashion for residential villa architecture.
- History:** The design for Tudor Hall was copied by Junius Brutus Booth from Plates 44 and 45 of William H. Ranlett's pattern book, *The Architect*. Ranlett's pattern book was modeled on Alexander Jackson Davis's best-selling architectural treatise, *Rural Residences*. The picturesque, rural villa ideal promoted by Davis is also evident in Ranlett's work. Booth built the house near the banks of Bynum Run in 1847 for his mistress/second wife, Mary Ann Holmes (they married in 1851). The notorious Lincoln assassin and fellow actor John Wilkes Booth was one of their ten children.
- Sources:** Christopher Weeks, *An Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 123-24, 286.
- Historian:** Lisa Pfueller Davidson, HABS Historian, 2006.
- Project Information:** This short form history was prepared to supplement photographic documentation of Harford County, Maryland. During 2005 HABS staff photographer James Rosenthal photographed a series of sites in Harford County in preparation for the *Buildings of Maryland* publication. Maryland Historical Trust sponsored the photography project and is producing *Buildings of Maryland* as part of the Society of Architectural Historians' *Buildings of the United States* series.